

STATE OF NEW JERSEY  
DEPARTMENT OF LAW & PUBLIC SAFETY  
DIVISION OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS  
NEW JERSEY STATE  
BOARD OF NURSING

IN THE MATTER OF THE  
LICENSE OF

LAURA GONZALEZ, L.P.N.  
License # NP 06803500

TO PRACTICE NURSING IN THE  
STATE OF NEW JERSEY

Administrative Action

FINAL ORDER  
OF DISCIPLINE

This matter was opened to the New Jersey State Board of Nursing ("the Board") upon receipt of information which the Board has reviewed and on which the following findings of fact and conclusions of law are made:

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. Respondent is a licensed practical nurse in the State of New Jersey, and has been a licensee at all times relevant hereto.

2. On or about April 25, 2014, a letter was sent to respondent on behalf of the Board, asking for information concerning her arrest on January 24, 2014 on charges relating to passing bad checks, as well as information related to her nursing practice, including documentation of completion of required nursing continuing education within the last three years. The letter was sent to respondent's address of record by certified

and regular mail. The certified mailing was unclaimed. The regular mailing was not returned.

3. Ms. Gonzales telephoned the Division of Consumer Affairs staff member who had signed the April 25, 2014 letter of inquiry, advising her that she had received the letter, and would be faxing in a response to the letter. No response has been received to date.

4. Respondent indicated on her 2014 renewal applications that she would not have completed all required continuing education for the 2012-2014 renewal period by May 31, 2014.

#### CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

1. Respondent's failure to respond to a Board inquiry constitutes a failure to cooperate with a Board investigation in violation of N.J.A.C. 13:45C-1.2, -1.3, subjecting her to sanctions pursuant to N.J.S.A. 45:1-21(e).

3. Respondent's failure to demonstrate timely completion of nursing continuing education requirements for the 2012-2014 renewal period constitutes a violation of N.J.A.C. 13:37-5.3, subjecting respondent to sanctions pursuant to N.J.S.A. 45:1-21(e) and (h).

Based on the foregoing findings and conclusions, a Provisional Order of Discipline was entered on October 27, 2014, provisionally suspending respondent's nursing license, and imposing a reprimand and a total of \$750.00 in civil penalties. A copy of the Order was served upon the respondent by certified and regular mail at her address of record. The Provisional Order was subject to finalization by the Board at 5:00 p.m. on the 30<sup>th</sup> business day following entry unless respondent requested a modification or dismissal of the stated

Findings of Fact or Conclusions of Law by submitting a written request for modification or dismissal setting forth in writing any and all reasons why said findings and conclusions should be modified or dismissed and submitting any and all documents or other written evidence supporting respondent's request for consideration and reasons therefor.

Although the record reflects that the certified mailing of the Provisional Order was signed for, and the regular mailing was not returned, no response has been received to date. The Board considered this matter and determined that service had been effected, as the mailings had been sent to respondent's address of record with the Board. The Board further determined that as no discrepancies had been raised with respect to the findings and conclusions of the Provisional Order, additional proceedings were not necessary, and the Provisional Order should be made final.

ACCORDINGLY, IT IS on this 11<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2015,  
ORDERED that:

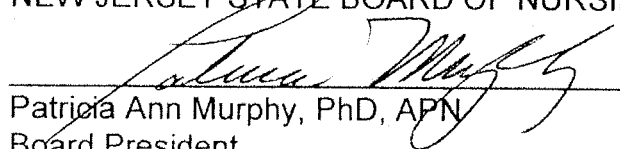
1. Respondent's nursing license is hereby suspended until she has fully responded to the Board's inquiry, and until she has documented completion of 30 contact hours of nursing continuing education to be attributed to the 2012-2014 licensing cycle.

2. A \$500 civil penalty is hereby imposed for the failure to cooperate with a Board investigation in violation of N.J.A.C. 13:45C-1.2, -1.3, and a \$250.00 civil penalty is also provisionally imposed for the violation of N.J.A.C. 13:37-5.3, for a total penalty amount of \$750. Payment shall be in the form of a certified check or money order, made payable to the State of New Jersey, which shall be due within 21 days following the filing of this order. Payment shall be sent to the attention of George Hebert, R.N.,

Executive Director, Board of Nursing, P.O. Box 45010, 124 Halsey Street, Sixth Floor,  
Newark, NJ 07101.

NEW JERSEY STATE BOARD OF NURSING

By:

  
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Patricia Ann Murphy, PhD, APN  
Board President